

Sherwood Park PAC Minutes

Meeting date: January 23, 2019

In Attendance: Administration: Kelly Curry, Darren Steele

Parents: Jeannette Schisler, Natalie Lai, Meredith Briden, Christine Chatelain, Tristan Newby, Beth Rossiter, Sara Wilkinson, Robyn Whyte

Exec (non-voting): Penny Swords, Gina Madeo, Chris Ricard, Sharon Boglari

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

The PAC would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the Squamish Nation, on whose traditional territory our School District resides. We value the opportunity to learn, live and share educational experiences on this traditional territory.

Motion to approve the November 14, 2018 minutes made by Jeannette Schisler and seconded by Penny Swords.

Hot lunch vendor presentation: Kindermeals

Kindermeals (<https://www.kindermeals.com/>) provides nutritionist-designed plant-based, low sugar/sodium/fat, locally-sourced/made meals as part of school hot lunch programs. They currently operate at two other North Vancouver elementary schools as well as a number of Burnaby schools.

Parents sampled a couple of their meals (paella, pasta al pomodoro, falafel bowl) and response was positive. Their prices are comparable to other hot lunch providers currently operating at Sherwood.

Parents in attendance also reviewed Canada's new food guide released last week (<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/>) and discussed whether our hot lunch program should overall be more aligned with healthy eating guidelines. Significant efforts have already been made to reduce the environmental impact of our hot lunch program through vendor packaging and eliminating cutlery.

Hot lunches are a significant income stream for the PAC and they are entirely volunteer run! We need to balance volunteer effort, PAC profits, vendor popularity, environmental concerns, and health. Current hot lunch vendors are: Magic LunchBox, Pizza, Sushi, Subway, and Bluhouse (new vendor this term).

Two motions were made:

1. **Eliminate juice boxes, fruit leather, and bearpaw cookies from future hot lunches.** This proposal was made to align with healthy eating habits and also as it requires volunteer effort to purchase these items separately and package/deliver them on hot lunch days. Our current volunteer is unable to continue this activity.

This motion was supported by all parents in attendance. Upon further discussion with the hot lunch volunteers after the meeting, it was decided to conduct further consultation with parents on this topic.

ACTION: The PAC will conduct a survey and provide the feedback to the hot lunch lead coordinators for consideration.

2. **Add Kindermeals as a hot lunch vendor.** Since our hot lunch calendar is quite full already, and adding a new vendor would require additional volunteers, any new vendor added would have to replace an existing vendor. Subway was suggested as the vendor to replace.

ACTION: Jeanette Schisler volunteered to investigate the feasibility of bringing on Kindermeals (ie environmental packaging, what volunteer effort would be needed, and whether an existing volunteer would be willing to switch vendors). PAC will conduct consultation on hot lunch vendors via a parent survey and provide feedback to the hot lunch lead coordinators for consideration.

School Administration Report

- Kelly Curry provided a summary of the school newsletter that will be published January 25, 2019: <https://www.sd44.ca/school/sherwoodpark/Parents/Documents/2019%20-%201%20%28Jan%29%20%281%29.pdf>

- Downie Wenjack Legacy Fund: Sherwood Park is one of the schools participating in this initiative, and is collaborating with Windsor. There will be a celebration in April to showcase our school's journey. (<https://www.downiewenjack.ca/our-work/legacy-schools>)
- A parent asked about the new fencing at WaterWorld. The fence is being erected by the North Vancouver District for safety reasons.

Sherwood Park Technology

Teacher Darren Steele provided an update on the school's technology vision. Thanks to funding from the PAC and from the school district, the school now has 21 mounted projectors in all enrolling classrooms, 3 projectors on mounted carts with laptops, and ~135 iPads in circulation for 427 students. Existing technology is well-organized and teachers are actively engaged in learning how to use it. Thanks to Mr Steele and to the Sherwood Park teachers for their hard work to manage this equipment.

Mr Steele discussed the importance of preparing Intermediate students for secondary school by teaching them keyboarding, file management, and Word Processing/Presentation skills. Sherwood Park currently does not have any laptops to facilitate teaching these skills and it is our understanding the North Vancouver School district does not provide funding for hardware for schools. Parents discussed the possibility of conducting a special fundraising campaign to purchase school laptops.

ACTION: Chris Ricard and Penny Swords volunteered to liaise with the school administration to help determine technology needs. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the April 10, 2019 PAC meeting.

The NVSD44 is currently accepting feedback from the parent community on budget initiatives for next year. For more information on how to provide feedback (including a meeting on Feb 5, 2019), visit:

https://www.sd44.ca/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=648&ListID=d00680b1-9ba1-4668-9328-d82dd27dacd4&TemplateID=Announcement_Item

https://www.sd44.ca/Documents/Budget_Infographic.pdf

School supplies vendor

Mr Johal requested feedback from parents on our current school supplies vendor. Feedback is also being collected from teachers. The following feedback was provided from parents in attendance:

- Parents are supportive of teachers doing bulk purchasing, particularly for consumables such as paper and glue sticks
- Parents could then just purchase "staples" that would carry through from year to year such as dictionaries and calculators
- Regarding the quality of the current supplier, we feel the teachers are a good judge of that as they use the supplies directly
- Parents would also be supportive of having a central stationery supply area, where we can donate unused or gently used items (from previous years orders) that teachers can access for their classrooms
- If we stay with the current system and supplier, there should be better communication regarding that we don't have to order the "full package". The supplier is willing to work with individual parents to just send the items they are missing.
- The general feeling is that there is a lot of waste in the current system and unused items come home at the end of the year and then are re-ordered the following year. This is expensive, time-consuming if parents want to do individual ordering/purchasing, and wasteful (landfill).

Budget

The budget vs actuals from July through December 2018 was reviewed. Parents discussed the following budget requests:

1. Request for \$500 to pay for the Wagana Aboriginal Dancers and Raven Spirit Dance performance to visit the school. A current and previous Sherwood Park student are part of this troupe and they have performed in Australia. Parents expressed a desire to support this group, but this item was not budgeted for as part of our performing arts budget. ACTION: PAC is investigating the current expenditure against the performing arts budget, and if there is still room, we will support bringing on this group. If not, then it was suggested that the request come forward again for next year.
2. Request for \$375+GST to host a parent evening for Grade 6/7 parents whose children are participating in the Safeteen program (paid for by PAC). Parents felt that they would rather support parent evenings that appeal to a wider audience. Request denied.
3. First Aid training. PAC has budgeted \$880 for first aid training for Grade 6s this year. This is an annually budgeted item with the idea that Grade 6s would then support PAC events with babysitting and also support school administration with simple first aid procedures during school. Administration has requested \$1,200 to pay for Red Cross training for Grade 6s this year – this is over our budgeted amount. Additionally, the 2017/18 training was over budget by approx. \$800. ACTION: Chris Ricard to investigate if there is a cheaper training option and work with the administration on a recommendation.

Seycove Auction (March 2)

Tickets go on sale Feb 1 for this popular event which is also a significant source of funding for the PACs of Seycove Secondary, Dorothy Lynas, Cove Cliff, and Sherwood Park.

We have a few themed baskets started that you can donate individual items to, many of which are at a low cost, but when bundled together will make a great auction item! The themed baskets include Game Room Makeover, Green Home, Save the Bees, and of course, Wine. Log into your MunchaLunch account and click on the 'Fundraising Open!' link to sign up to donate items to any of these baskets.

Please send your contributions to the office by February 8th and indicate the value of your item(s), so completed baskets can be properly valued.

Communication:

Have you seen our new PAC newsletter? We're looking for someone who will be a backup for our current volunteer to help publish the newsletter. Full training will be provided!

If you've missed a newsletter, you can access them from our website: <http://sherwoodparkpac.weebly.com/pac-newsletters.html>. If you haven't received the PAC newsletter, please speak to your class rep or sign up here: <http://eepurl.com/dGq5D1>

Volunteers:

PAC has budgeted for a parent education evening, but needs a volunteer to organize this. In the past, we have shared resources with other PACs in our family of schools. Topic ideas included Sharon Selby (anxiety) and healthy eating.

Mark your calendars:

PAC meetings:

- Apr 10, 2019
- May 29, 2019

Events:

- Saleema Noon parent evening – Feb 5, 2019
- Spring dance - Mar 8, 2019
- Carnival - June 20, 2019

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. Next meeting: April 10 @ 7pm in the school library – ideas for next year's budget will be discussed.

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